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STATISTICAL SUMMARY

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, U. S. D. A.

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Conditions Favorable for Winter Wheat

December was mostly favorable for 1948 crops. Growing conditions favored progress of wheat. Seeding of winter wheat continued later than usual in southern wheat areas, with good germination and growth. Biggest winter wheat acreage of record has finally been sown.

Moisture appears adequate in most areas, built up by fall rains and snows. Middle and Southern Great Plains wheat areas benefited from rain or snow 2 to 3 times normal but the Southern Plains areas could use a little more rain because of previous long dry spell.

Wheat Stocks Near Record

Wheat stocks on U.S. farms January 1 total 428 million bushels. Stocks are second largest of record. Only in 1943 have they been exceeded. This large supply of wheat is on hand despite heavy movement from farms since the bumper 1947 wheat crop was harvested...movement July 1 to January 1, largest on record. Stocks year ago, 365.8 million bushels; 10-year average, 310.5 million bushels.

Corn Stocks Down

Corn stocks on farms January 1 total 1,518 million bushels, smallest for date since 1937. Stocks are down 29 percent from year ago and 16 percent below 1937-46 average. Corn stocks last year, 2,137 million; 1937-46 average, 1,812 million bushels. Disappearance since October 1, 890 million bushels—8 percent less than in same period year earlier and 2 percent less than average.

Oat Stocks Above Average

Oats on farms are estimated at 744 million bushels compared with the near record stocks of 892 million bushels year ago and 734 million bushels 10-year average. Stocks are 17 percent less than a year ago but are above average. Disappearance since October 1—221 million bushels—has been less than for same period a year ago, and also 2 years ago. Average disappearance has been 217 million bushels.

Barley Stocks Up 5 Million Bushels

Barley stocks on farms December 1...134 million bushels...5 million more than a year earlier...55 million less than 1939-45 average. For the first time in 5 years December barley stocks top the previous year. For several years year-end barley stocks had dropped behind the year before.

Barley disappearance October-December was less than a year earlier and less than average. Only 26 1/2 million bushels disappeared October to December, compared with 31 million same period year earlier and 45 million bushels average.

Rye Stocks Up 3 Million Bushels

Rye stocks on farms December 1...8 1/2 million bushels...compare with 5 1/2 million year earlier and 20 1/2 million 1939-45 average. About 5 million bushels disappeared from farms October to December against 4 1/4 million same period year earlier. January 1 rye stocks are estimated at 7.2 million bushels as against 4 million year ago and 6 1/2 million two years ago.

Larger Than Usual Soybean Stocks

Soybean stocks on farms January 1 are the largest since 1944, although last year's crop was smallest since 1941. Stocks on farms January 1 totaled 50,749,000 bushels. Holdings are mainly concentrated in the heavy-producing North Central States and in the South Atlantic States.

Disappearance is the smallest in 5 years. From October 1 to January 1 it amounted to 133 million bushels, from a total supply of 184 million bushels. Same period a year ago it was 166 million bushels.

Above Average Hay Stocks

Hay stocks January 1, about 70 million tons, were about same as year ago and 2 million tons larger than the '38-46 average. Supplies adequate in most States; low in a few areas.

Feed Grain Per Unit, Below Average

October-December disappearance of feed grains has been lighter than in recent years. But January 1 aggregate stocks on farms are smallest since 1937. Feed grain supplies on farms per animal unit are lower than on January 1 of any of the past 10 years except 1943. Feed grain per unit is now about one-seventh below average of past 10 years.

1947-48 U.S. Wheat Supplies

1947-48 wheat supply (including last July carryover and 1947 crop) is estimated at 1,449 million bushels. In the U.S., about 250 million bushels may be used for feed, 510 million for food, 88 million for seed, and less than a million for industrial use—a total of nearly 850 million bushels. This would leave about 600 million bushels for export and for next July 1 carryover. Any further savings in the coming months from the grain conservation program would tend to increase the amount for export and carryover.

World Wheat and Rye Crops

Record crops in the U.S. and Australia bring the world 1947 wheat crop near the '35-39 average...and about same as in 1946. The 1947 world rye crop is 4 percent above 1946 but about 12 percent below average. World supplies of wheat are near prewar average but need for wheat and other grains in the importing countries is far greater than prewar.

Big Flaxseed Acreage in Southwest

Flaxseed acreage sown last fall for 1948 harvest in the southwestern flax States of California, Arizona, and Texas is estimated at 394,000 acres. It is the largest of record for that area...about 2/3 larger than a year ago. (Spring plantings, other States, will be reported in March.)

No Change in '47-48 Citrus Forecast

Prospective production on January 1 for each of the citrus fruits, 1947-48 season, is the same as indicated on December 1. Orange crop is forecast at 108.3 million boxes—5 percent below the big 1946-47 crop, 30 percent above the 10-year average. Crop includes 51.2 million boxes early and midseason oranges and 57.1 million Valencias, compared with 54.3 million and 59.7 million boxes, respectively, previous season. U.S. grapefruit crop, indicated at 62.3 million boxes, compares with 59.5 million last season. California lemons, at 14.1 million boxes, compare with 13.8 millions in '46-47. Florida tangerines are indicated to be 4.3 million boxes compared with 4.7 million last season.

PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS AND ACTUAL PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY AND UNIT	ACTUAL PRICE		PARITY PRICE
	Nov. 15 1947	Dec. 15 1947	Dec. 15 1947
Wheat, bu.dol.	2.74	2.79	2.17
Corn, bu.dol.	2.19	2.37	1.57
Peanuts, lb.ct.	10.1	10.1	11.8
Cotton, lb.ct.	31.87	34.06	30.38
Potatoes, bu.dol.	1.66	1.72	1.83
Hogs, 100 lb.dol.	24.20	24.90	17.80
Beef cattle, 100 lb.dol.	18.80	19.80	13.30
Veal calves, 100 lb.dol.	21.40	22.30	16.50
Lambs, 100 lb.dol.	20.80	21.30	14.40
Butterfat, lb.ct.	78.0	87.7	1/ 70.5
Milk, wholesale, 100 lb.dol.	2/ 4.90	5.02	1/ 4.29
Chickens, live, lb.ct.	24.9	25.2	27.9
Eggs, doz.ct.	53.4	58.7	1/ 63.2

1/ Adjusted for seasonal variation.

2/ Revised.

Fewer Cows Cut Total Milk in December --But Total for 1947 Is Near Record

Milk cow numbers, declining for several years, are now lowest since the fall of 1940. December milk production—estimated at 8.2 billion pounds—also is lowest for the month since 1940. But milk per cow in December was second highest on record.

Based on preliminary estimates, a total of 120 billion pounds of milk was produced in 1947 as a whole. This was slightly above 1946 and above all other years except 1945 when production was 1 percent higher.

Milk production, per capita, per day, in December averaged 1.83 pounds, lowest for the month in 10 years; annual production per capita was the lowest since 1940 but about equal 1936-45 average.

Eggs Produced About Same As Year Ago

Hens laid about same total number of eggs in December as year earlier, but 43 percent above '36-45 average. Total in December 3.7 billion eggs. Production reached all-time highs in North Atlantic, East North Central and Western States, about offsetting decreases in other sections. Number of eggs per layer also was about the same as in December year ago. Rate in December, 9.6 eggs; 10-year average for the month, 7. Total eggs produced last year, 55.5 billion; 55.6 billion in 1946; and 44.7 billion average. Layers decreased only about 1 percent since January 1 year ago. Potential layers January 1—including all pullets, as well as hens of laying age—totalled 427.9 million, 2 percent under year ago.

Less Poultry Canned

7,898,000 lbs. of chicken and 825,000 lbs. of turkey were canned in November, a total of 8,723,000 lbs. This total was 10 percent less than same month year earlier.

Cotton Goal 22 Million Acres

Cotton acreage goal suggested for this year calls for 22 million acres. This is 1.1 million acres below 1947 goal but 3 percent above acreage planted.

Reflecting the lack of dollars in foreign countries, exports of cotton August through October totalled only 264,400 bales. This compares with 757,500 same period in '46 and 1,500,000 for '35-39 average. But U.S. mill consumption has been high and is expected to total about 8,750,000 bales for this season.

Winter Vegetables Top '47

Commercial production of fresh vegetables for winter season is expected to be a little larger than in '47 and more than 1/4 above average. Only artichokes, kale, and green peas will be less than in '47 and less than average. Conditions, last half of December, favorable in Florida and Texas. Moisture badly needed in Desert and Central Valley areas of California. Abnormally cold weather has retarded growth of vegetables in Arizona.

Potato Goals Up From Last Year

This year's potato goal—2,352,400 acres—is up 10 percent from acreage planted last year and 11 percent above acreage harvested, but is 19 percent below average planted acreage. Under average conditions, present goals would produce 375 million bushels—enough for anticipated needs. January-March crop of commercial early potatoes is estimated at 1,171,000 bushels, 10 percent smaller than 1947 and 30 percent below average. The acreage of the early spring crop, estimated at 25,000 acres, is only about 1 percent of the total potato acreage which it is hoped will be planted this year.

Sweet potato acreage goal is expected to be about the same as the 1947 planted acreage. Acreage planted last year was 617,500; acres harvested, 611,400.

Fewer Spring Pigs Expected

Farmers plan to have about 7,732,000 sows for farrow this spring...about 11 percent below last spring. If intentions are carried out, and an average number of pigs per litter saved, spring crop will be about 48 million pigs, 9 percent below last spring. Goals called for 50 million. Spring pigs moved to market faster last year than in '46. Although last year's spring pig crop had been larger than in '46, about 6 percent fewer hogs over 6 months old were found on farms December 1 than a year earlier.

Prices Paid, Up 16% In Year; Received, 14%

Index of prices received by farmers jumped to 301 on Dec. 15. This is 14 points or 5 percent above November, and 14 percent above December year ago. From Mid-Nov. to Mid-Dec. average prices of all farmers' commodities increased except fruits. Mid-Dec. fruit averaged 29 percent lower than a year

ago. Prices paid by farmers Mid-December rose to a new record of 245...4 index points or 2 percent above Mid-Nov. and 16 percent above year ago. Feeds, clothing, and building materials made the greatest price increases among farmers' purchases.

U.S. Demands Offset Lower Exports

Increased expenditures for consumption goods, construction, and business inventories here at home, third quarter of 1947, more than offset a reduction in total exports. Value of U.S. exports of farm products third quarter, including military shipments of food to foreign civilians, was \$871 million compared with \$1,063 million first quarter and \$1,027 million second quarter. Third quarter was about same as average quarterly value in 1946. Decrease in third quarter was due to scarce dollars abroad. Interim aid now and further action later toward economic recovery abroad will tend to support exports.

Demand for farm products continues at record high. Industry output near capacity—in November, almost double '35-39 average. Income to individuals, increasing steadily...full employment at rising wage rates.

Farm Wages Triple Since 1940

Wages to farm workers advanced to new records in 1947...8 percent above 1946 and more than 3 times as high as in 1940. One of the types of wage rates, per day without board, averaged \$5.20 on January 1, 1948; \$4.83 on January 1, 1947; \$1.42 January 1935-39 average; and \$1.42 annual average 1910-14.

Farm workers (family and hired) totalled 8.1 million January 1, slightly less than year ago. U.S. civilian employment in December (Census) totalled 57.9 million compared with 58.6 million in November and 56.3 million December a year ago.

More Fertilizers But More Needed

More fertilizer will be available than last year but more will be needed. U.S. will have 4 percent more nitrogen, 5 percent more potash, 6 percent more phosphate. Supplies will double prewar. Despite increases, supplies may be short of farmers' needs, especially nitrogen and perhaps potash. Phosphate will be more nearly adequate. Unusual needs make world fertilizer supplies short, despite record production. World needs 4.2 million tons nitrogen...world production, about 3.2 million tons.

80 Percent of Farms Have Radios

More than 8 out of 10 U.S. farms have radios; 6 out of 10 have electricity from a central power station; less than 4 out of 10 have telephones. In 1930 only 20 percent had radios; 10 percent electricity; 34 percent telephones. (For details by regions, ask for December report of BAE Sample Survey)

On Choice of Fibers

An indication of what wearing apparels and household textiles women prefer to buy, and why, will be found in the report of a Nation-wide survey conducted by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Findings show for each of 16 articles the percentage of women who had fiber preferences, percentage preferring various fibers, reasons for their preferences, and qualities women seek when buying a particular article.

CURRENT INDEXES FOR AGRICULTURE

INDEX NUMBERS	BASE PERIOD	December 1947
Prices received by farmers	1910-14= 100	301
Prices paid by farmers, interest and taxes	1910-14= 100	245
Parity ratio	1910-14= 100	123
Wholesale prices of food	1910-14= 100	278
Retail prices of food	1910-14= 100	262
Farm wage rates	1910-14= 100	416
Weekly factory earnings	1910-14= 100	453
PRODUCTION COMPARISONS	Jan.-Dec. 1946	Jan.-Dec. 1947
Milk, (Bil. lb.)	119.7	120.2
Eggs, (Bil.)	55.6	55.5
Beef, (Dr. wt., mil. lb.)	4/ 5,026	4/ 6,899
Lamb & Mutton (Dr. wt., mil. lb.)	4/ 791	4/ 655
Pork & Lard (Mil. lb.)	4/ 7,531	4/ 8,292
All meats (Dr. wt., mil. lb.)	4/ 13,925	4/ 16,676

1/ November figure.

2/ October figure.

3/ Factory pay roll per employed worker adjusted for seasonal variation. October figure. 4/ January-November.